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(54) **QUICK RELEASE MECHANISM FOR VEHICLE SEATING**

(75) Inventor: **Jeffrey P. Few**, Elkhart, IN (US)

(73) Assignee: **Norco Industries, Inc.**, Elkhart, IN (US)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **248/503.1**; 296/65.03; 297/336

(58) **Field of Search** 248/424, 429, 248/430, 298.1, 503, 503.1, 501; 296/65.1, 63; 297/311, 440.22, 326

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Primary Examiner—Leslie A. Braun

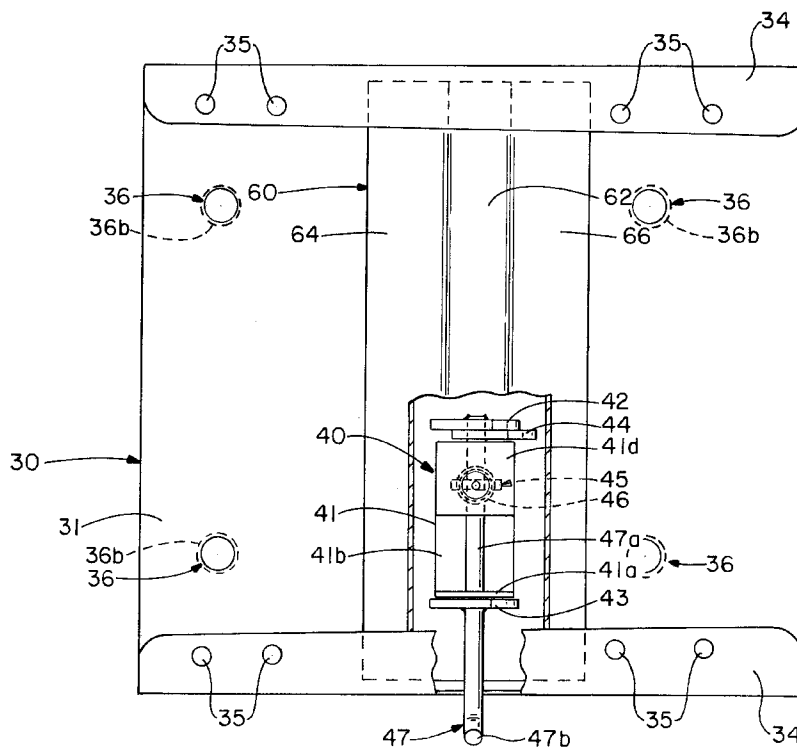
Assistant Examiner—Tan Le

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Oldham & Oldham Co., LPA

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A quick release mechanism for a conveyance seat comprising: a base plate rigidly attachable to a floor portion of a conveyance connected to a riser member by way of a cammed locking means. Wherein, the cammed locking means has a "T" lock that may be positioned so as to secure the riser member, and a locking cam which further secures the riser member by reducing the amount of sideways movement between the riser member and the base plate, and a compression cam which when rotated in a locked position pulls the "T" lock in an upward direction, and a spring which applies a force in a downward direction when the compression cams are in a lock position. The seat mechanism is further secured by a plurality of detents included in the base plate.

27 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



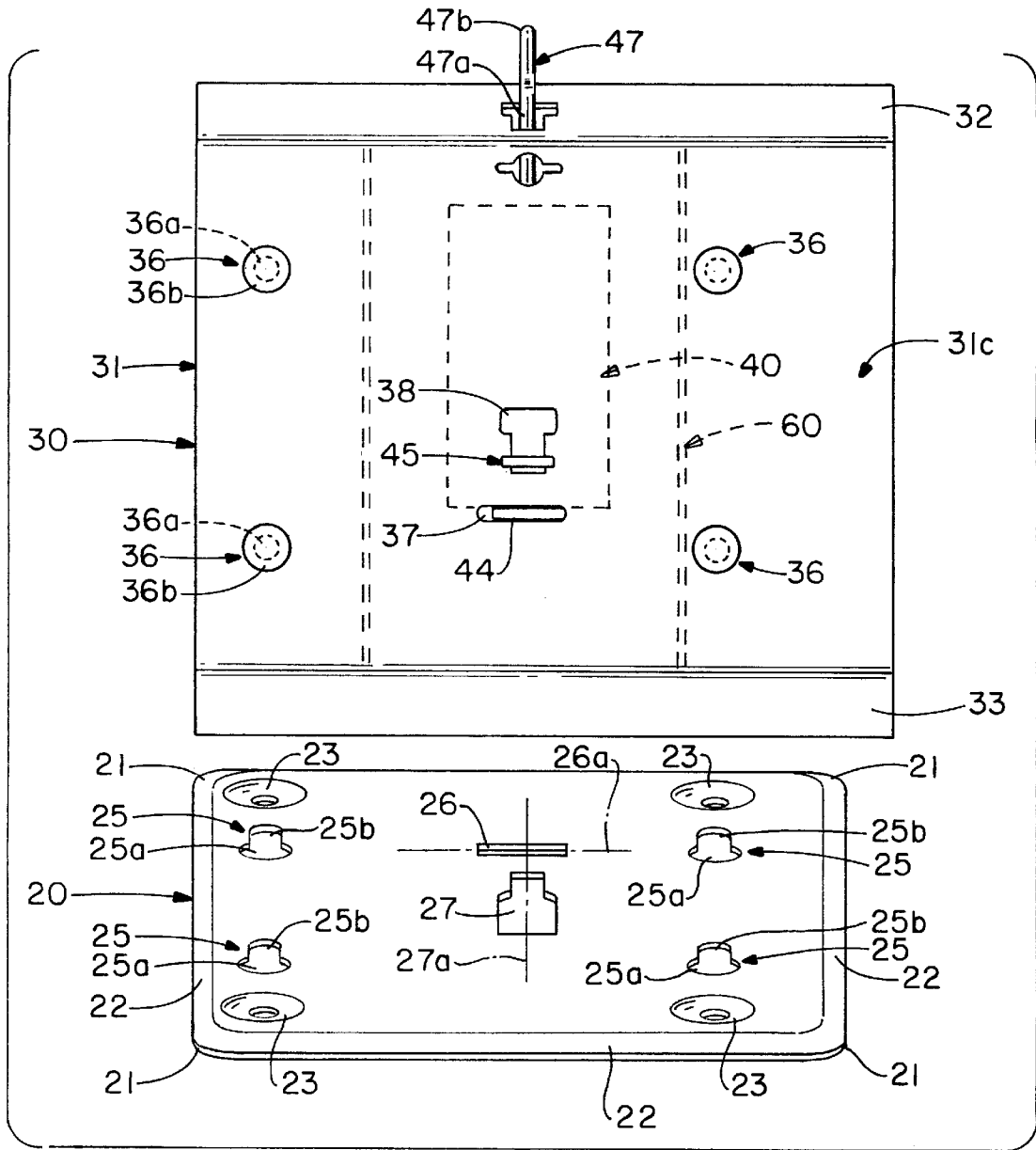


FIG.-1

10

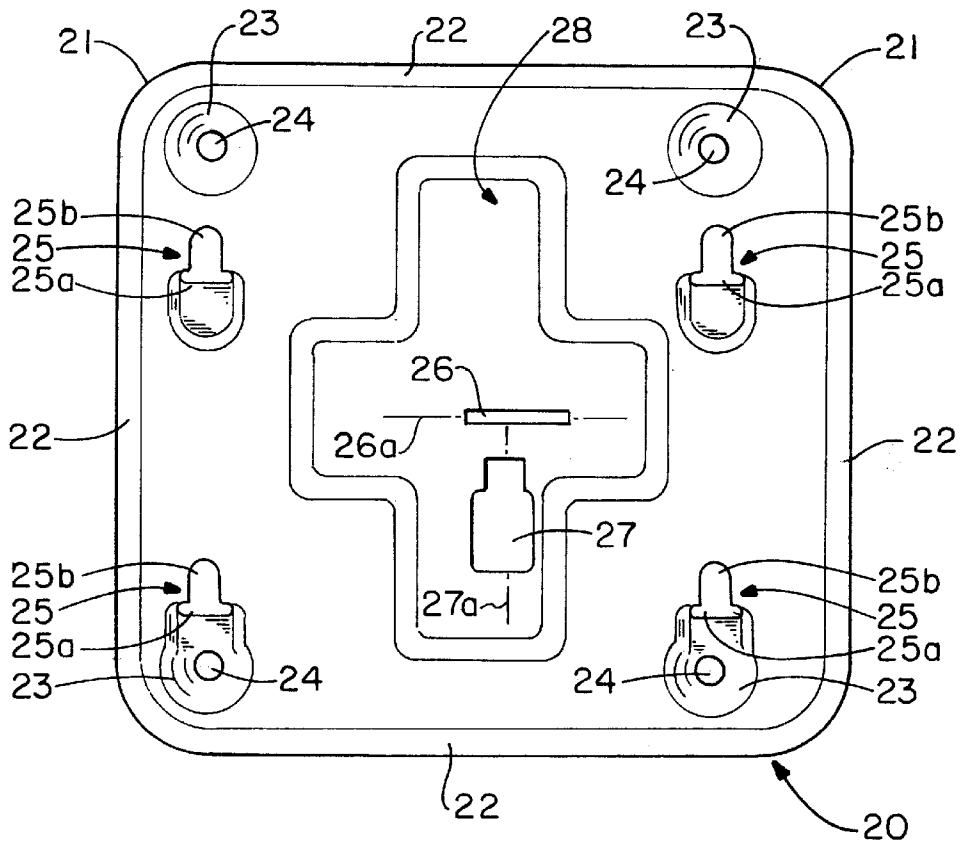


FIG. -2

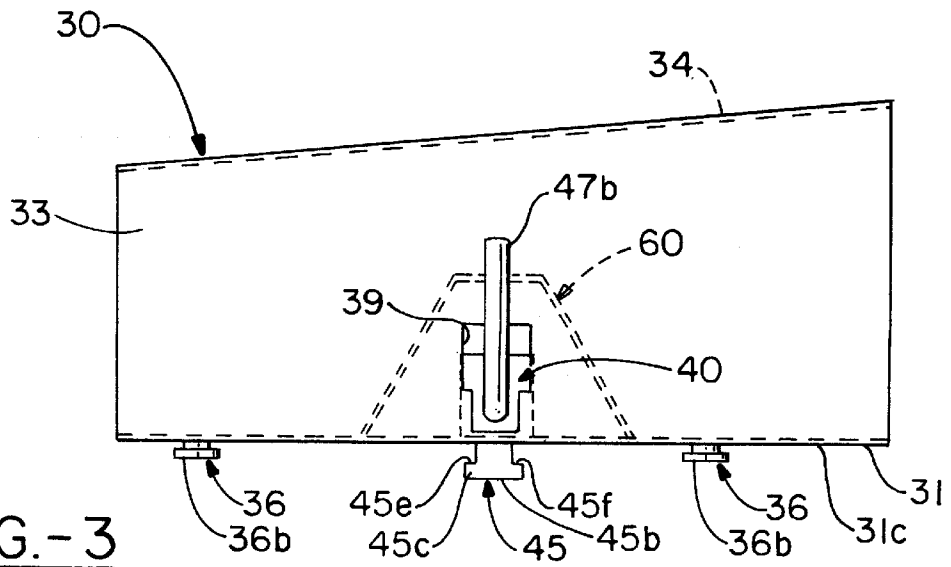


FIG. -3

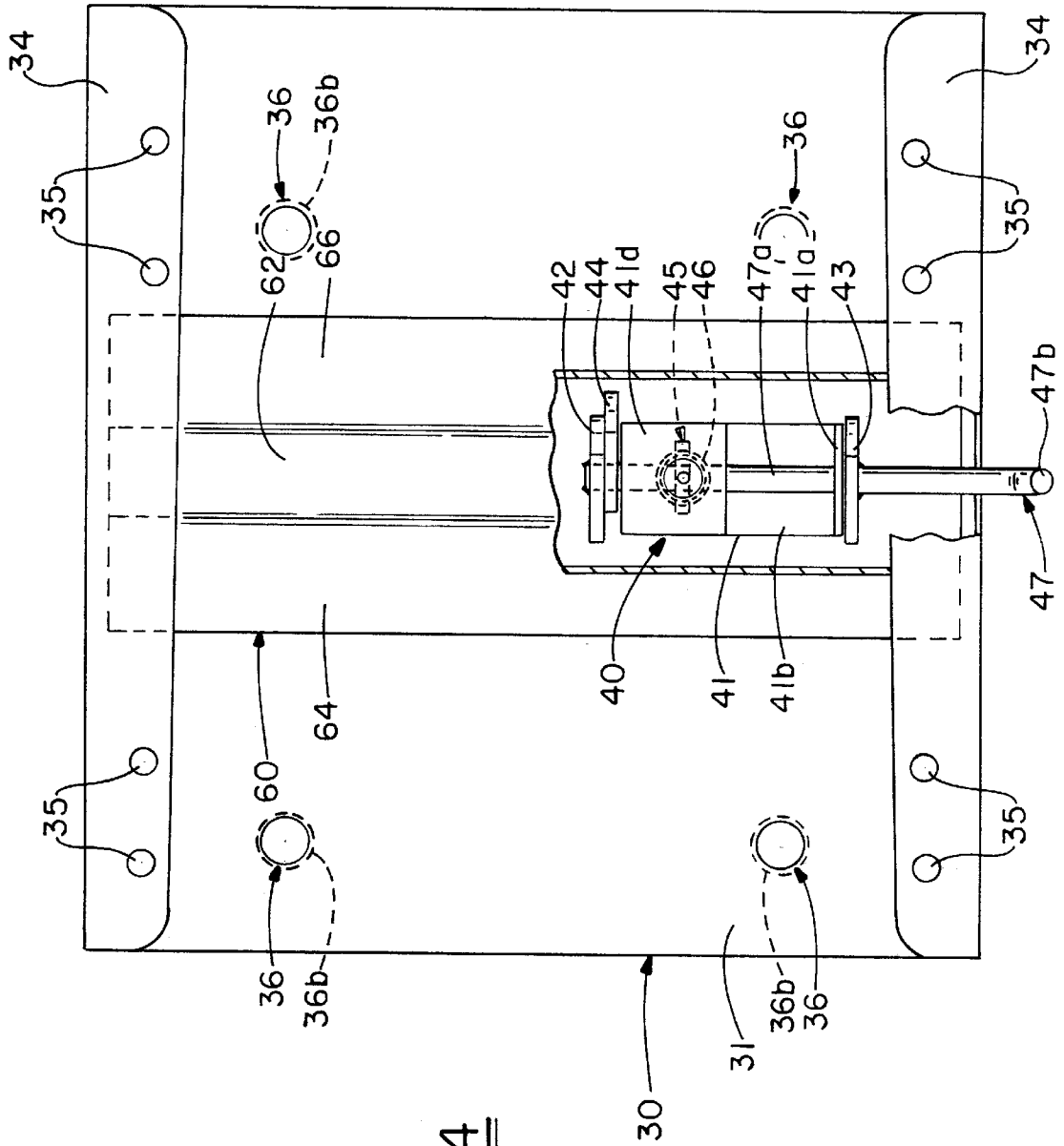


FIG. - 4

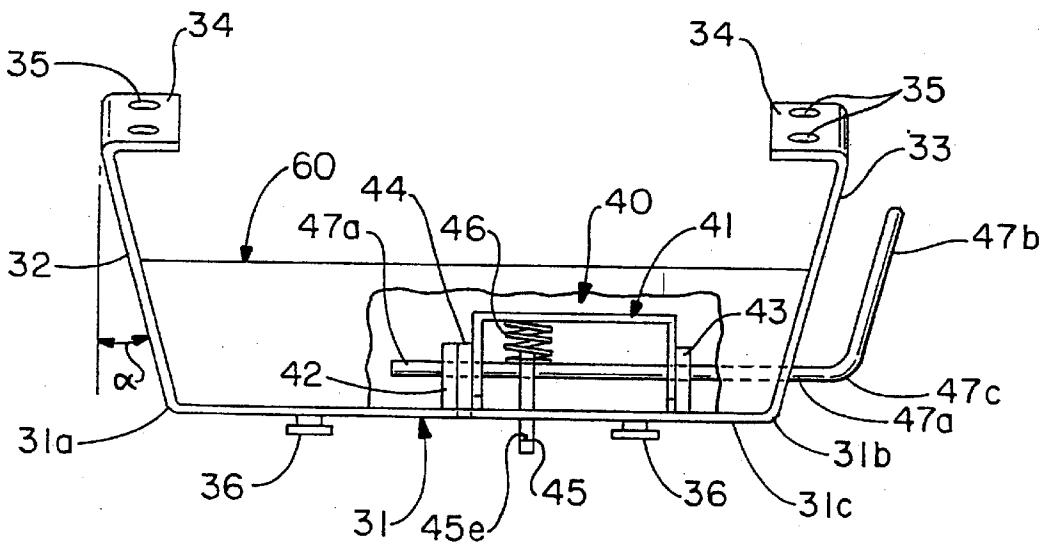


FIG. -10

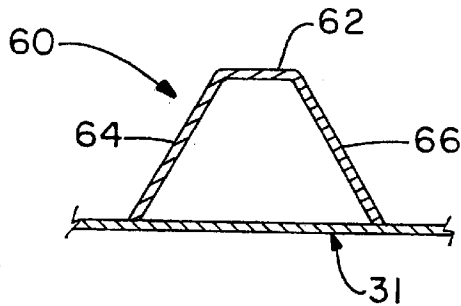


FIG. -10A

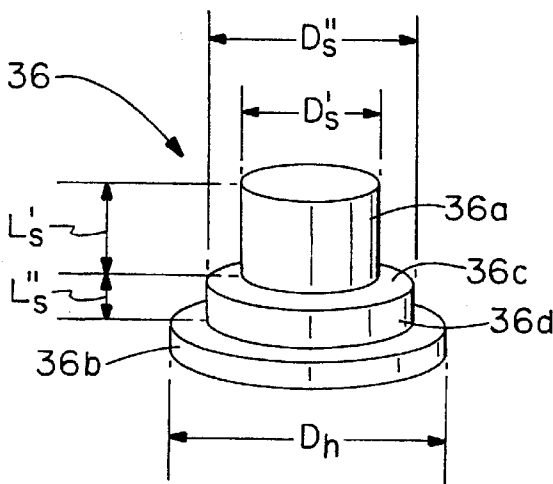


FIG. -5A

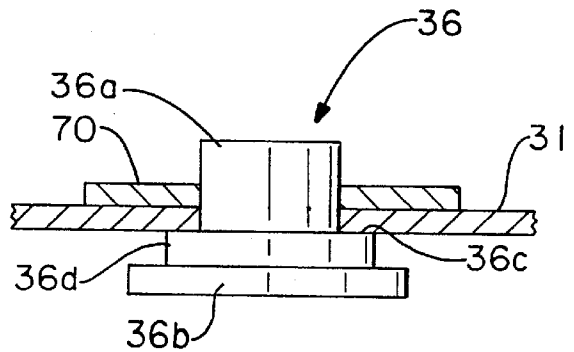


FIG. -5B

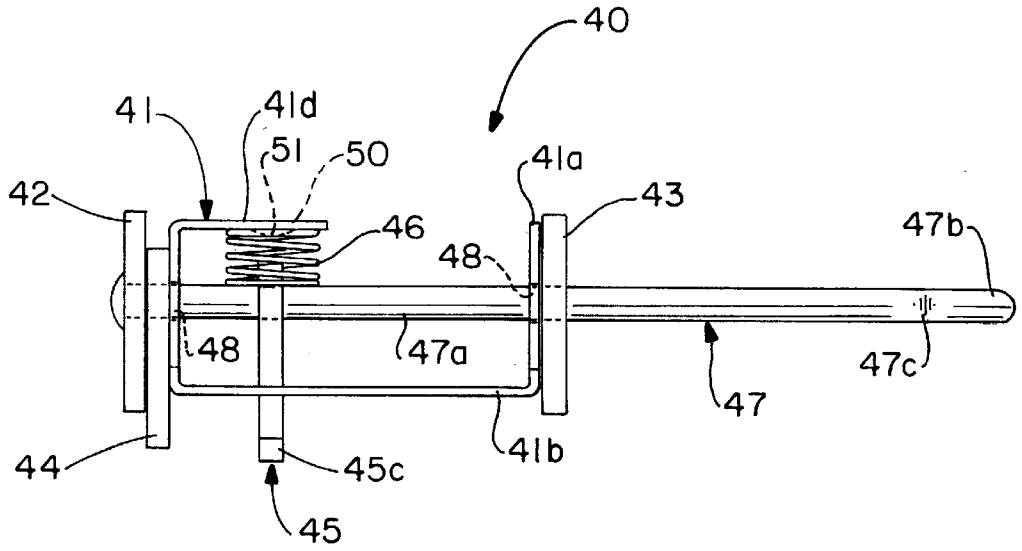


FIG.-8

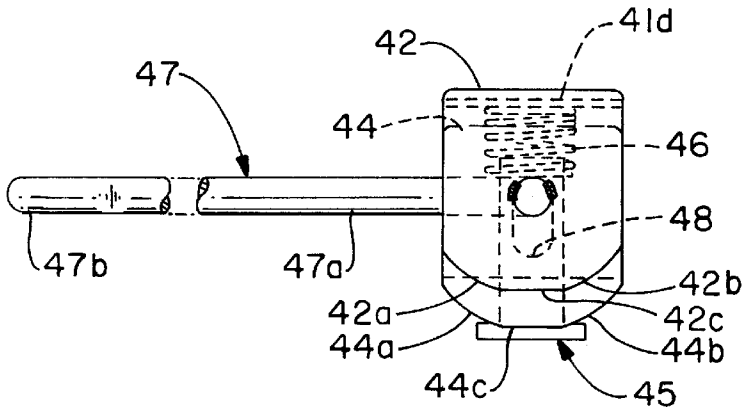


FIG.-9

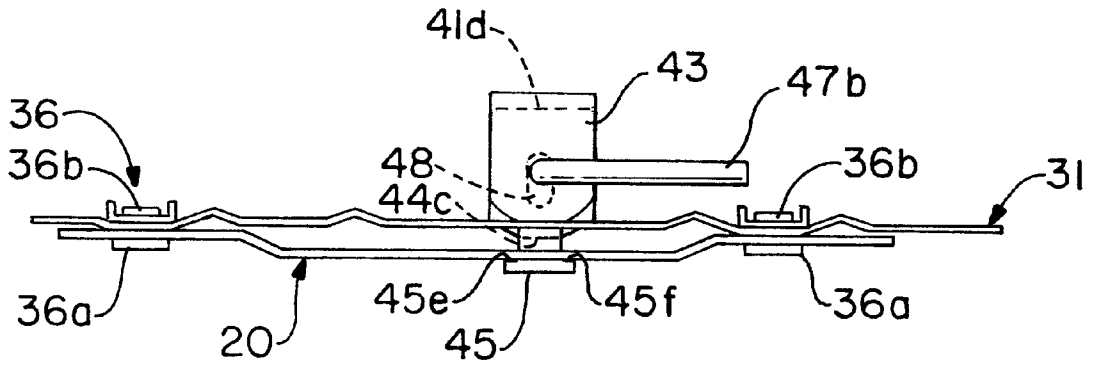


FIG. - IIA

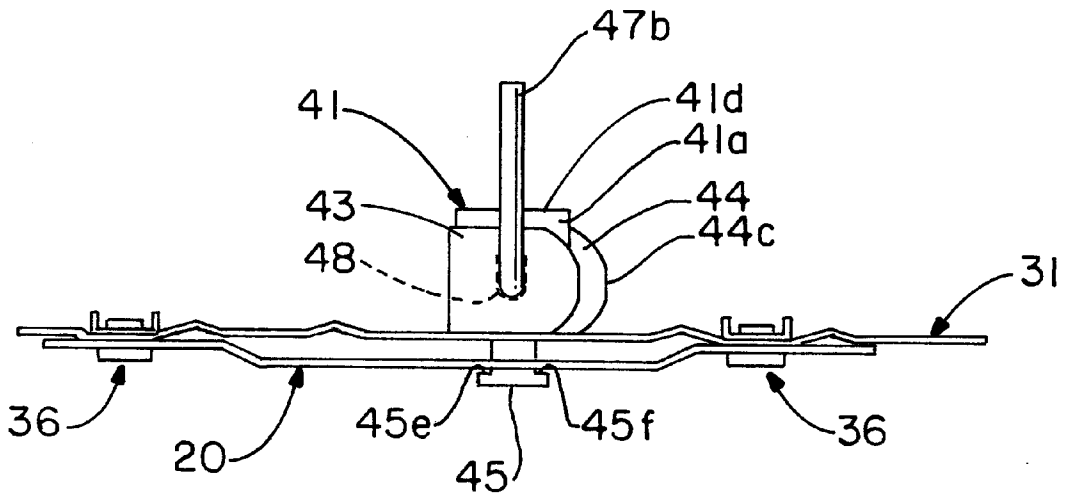


FIG. - IIB

QUICK RELEASE MECHANISM FOR VEHICLE SEATING

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/061,096 filed on Oct. 3, 1997.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to assemblies used for mounting seats in motor vehicles, and more particularly, to a quick release mechanism that permits a passenger or an operator seat in the inside of a van or other conveyance to be easily unfastened and removed from the vehicle.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In motorized vehicles such as vans or other big passenger vehicles, situations frequently arise where it is desirable to quickly disconnect and remove one or more of the vehicle seats to increase available cargo space or to permit easy access to certain interior portions of the vehicle, perhaps for maintenance and/or repair purposes. A number of inventions have been conceived that provide release mechanisms for seats to be selectively removed from within the interior of a vehicle.

One such invention, shown in U.S. Pat. No. 5,326,067, consists of a quick release pedestal for a vehicle seat, comprising a base member rigidly attachable to a floor portion of a vehicle and having first and second pairs of elongated slots extending in spaced, parallel relation. A seat support member is releasably attached to the base member and includes two pairs of members each having the general shape of a hook, and oriented so as to be receivable into respective slots. The seat support member also includes a mechanism for releasing the support member from engagement to the base member.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,152,571, discloses a mounting device for removably attaching a seat usable in a boat or other conveyance. The device includes a flanged lower plate which may be attached by screws, bolts or other means to the vehicle floor. The device further includes a flanged upper plate which at its top surface attaches to a seat base. The flanges at one of the ends of each plate contain a hole that receives a peg for fastening the flanges together. The flanges at the other of the ends of each plate contain a slot so that a latch can be moved vertically through the flanges allowing the plates to be disengaged. A user must align the latches with the slot and screw the latch in manually.

A detachable seat supporting structure is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,805,952, wherein a locking mechanism in the supporting structure uses two slots in a base plate fastened to the floor of a motor vehicle to releasably lock the seat into a secure position. A first locking mechanism rod is inserted into a U-shaped base plate slot with a detention at a bottom portion which provides a pivot point. The U-shaped slot allows the seat to be removed from the vehicle by lifting the rod out of the slot. A second locking mechanism rod associates with an L-shaped slot. The first and second rods are interconnected such that by rotating a handle on the second rod the rods move within the designated slots and provide a snap lock.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,330,245 discloses a movable, as well as removable, vehicle seat including a fixing mechanism for connecting the seat structure to the floor of a vehicle. The mechanism, which is mounted to move relative to the seat structure, includes a latch having a shoulder. The latch penetrates an opening in the vehicle floor and is capable of taking up either an unlocking position or a locking position.

The above mentioned inventions all permit a seat to be detached to allow greater room in the vehicle, and also to attach the seat to the vehicle for use. However, all of the inventions lack a mechanism which can be secured so that there is little movement between the base plate and the seat member. Also, the prior art fails to describe a seat mechanism which can be quickly situated and released. The present invention overcomes this and other deficiencies associated with prior art vehicle seat release mechanisms.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a quick release mechanism for a seat of a vehicle. The mechanism generally comprises: a base plate which is rigidly attached to the floor of the vehicle; a riser member which releasably attaches at its bottom surface to the base plate and is secured at its upper extremities to the vehicle seat and a cammed locking means that is rigidly mounted to the interior of the riser member and that secures the riser member to the base plate.

The base plate is comprised of a thin, yet strong metallic material and is formed by stamping the material into a generally rectangular form having gently rounded corners and slightly flanged edges on all of its four sides. The base plate is also provided with a number of other features including: apertures that are located near each of the corners of the base plate; detents that are located proximate to the apertures; an elongated slot that is positioned in the central region of the base plate and a T-shaped opening that is situated to the side of the elongated slot. The apertures are used for securing the base plate to the floor of the vehicle with bolts or other types of fasteners. The elongated slot and the T-shaped opening receive elements of the cammed locking means to secure the riser member to the base plate.

Like the base plate, the riser member is fabricated from relatively thin metal plate. The riser member generally resembles a U-shaped channel having an elongated, horizontal base portion that when viewed from the top or bottom is rectangularly shaped, and two relatively flat side portions that extend upwardly from opposing ends of the base portion in a generally vertical direction. A plurality of hub-like projections are provided on the underside of the base portion and are located to coincide with the detents provided in the base plate. The hub-like projections are received by the detents and work in cooperation with them not only to align the riser member into locking position, but also to provide a means for engaging the riser member and the base plate. An elongated slot and a T-shaped opening are provided in the base portion of the riser member. The slot and the opening in the riser member correspond in size and location to the slot and opening provided in the base plate.

The cammed locking means includes a box-shaped frame through which passes a rotatable shaft. The shaft is provided with a handle portion which is created by a bend in the shaft that is outside of the box-shaped frame. The shaft is further provided with an extending tab and two compression cams, each of which cam is positioned at the outside surface of opposing end portions of the frame. The shaft also passes through a T-shaped locking tab that extends vertically downward and through a slot provided in the bottom side of the frame and that communicates with a spring positioned between a top portion of the frame and the upper end of the locking tab. The cammed locking means is positioned on the bottom portion of the riser member so that the extending tab is aligned with the elongated slot provided through the riser and the locking tab projects through the T-shaped opening.

The riser member is principally secured to the base plate by means of the T-shaped locking tab. When the hub-like projections of the riser engage the detents in the base plate, the elongated slot in the base plate receives the T-shaped locking tab of the cammed locking means. By rotating the handle portion of the shaft the compression cams are turned and thereby cause the shaft and the T-shaped locking tab to be moved upwardly so that the locking tab makes contact with the under side of the base plate. At the same time, the extending tab downwardly rotates to fit into the elongated slots in the base plate and in the riser member and thereby acts to reduce any lateral movement between the base plate and the riser member. The extending tab also ensures that the compression cams and the locking tab are secured in a locked position.

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved release mechanism for a vehicle seat, which may be quickly attached and detached.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a quick release mechanism for a vehicle seat, which is secure and allows minimal shifting or movement. Other objects, advantages, and novel features of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the invention when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is illustrative of the present invention which provides for a quick release mechanism wherein a base plate is shown in a top perspective view as it may be positioned relative to a riser member which is shown in a bottom plan view prior to the riser member being rotated downwardly on top of the base plate for locking engagement of the two.

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the base plate.

FIG. 3 is a side elevational view of the riser member.

FIG. 4 is a top view of the riser member with a portion broken away to expose the cammed locking means which forms a primary part of the quick release mechanism.

FIG. 5A is a perspective view of a hub-like projection of the riser member of the present invention.

FIG. 5B is a side view of a hub-like projection shown in FIG. 5A as the hub-like projection would appear when it is installed in the base portion of the riser member.

FIG. 6 is an exploded view of the cammed locking means of the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the cammed locking means of the present invention.

FIG. 8 is a side view of the cammed locking means of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is an end view of the cammed locking means of the present invention.

FIG. 10 cut away end view of the riser member of the present invention showing the cammed locking mechanism attached to riser means

FIG. 10A is a side cross-sectional view of the cammed locking means housing

FIG. 11A is an end view of the cammed locking means as it is positioned within the riser member and on the base plate in a locked condition; and

FIG. 11B is a view similar to FIG. 11A but showing the cammed locking means in the unlocked condition.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A quick release mechanism for a vehicle seat in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention

is indicated generally in FIG. 1 by the reference numeral 10. The mechanism 10 is comprised of a base plate 20, a riser member 30 and a cammed locking means 40. Base plate 20 is preferably stamped out of a sheet of metal such as steel, which may have a thickness ranging from 1 mm to 1 cm, and which preferably will range in thickness from 20 mm to 40 mm. As shown in FIG. 2, the base plate 20 has a generally rectangular form with gently rounded corner regions 21 and slightly flanged edges 22 on all four of its sides. The base plate 20 also has four depressions 23 which individually are located at its corner regions and are recessed downwardly toward the vehicle floor (not shown) so that the depressions 23 and the flanged edges 22 will make contact with the vehicle floor when the base plate 20 is installed. Thus the effect of the depressions 23 and the flanged edges 22 is to elevate other portions of the base plate 20 and thus prevent them from resting directly on the vehicle floor. Within each of the depressions 23 is a hole 24 intended to receive a bolt or similar fastener (not shown) for secure attachment of base plate 20 to the floor of the vehicle. Disposed about the periphery of the base plate 20 are at least four detents 25. Each of the detents 25 is comprised of two regions, the first being a downwardly recessed enlarged area 25a and the second being a narrowed throat area or notch 25b which is spatially positioned above and to the side of the enlarged area 25a. The detents 25 are positioned proximately to the depressions 23 and configured so that the center points of the semicircular portion of the notches 25b define the outline of a rectangle within the boundaries of the base plate 20. These detents 25 serve initially to orient the riser/cam assembly onto the base plate 20 during installation and later as a securing means. As shown in FIG. 2, some of the detents 25 may be situated such that they are in communication with the nearest of the depressions 23 while others may be located such that they are not.

The base plate 20 is further provided with an elongated slot 26 that is positioned in the central region of the base plate 20 and with a T-shaped opening 27 that is situated alongside the elongated slot 26 and oriented with respect to the elongated slot 26 such that the longitudinal dividing line 27a of the T-shaped opening 27 and the longitudinal dividing line 26a of the elongated slot 26 intersect at right angles. The elongated slot 26 and the T-shaped opening 27 will further be situated in a cross-shaped depression 28 provided for purposes which will be explained below.

The riser member 30, as shown in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4, preferably is also fabricated from a single piece of sheet metal stock such as steel and is subjected to stamping as well as bending forming processes. The riser member 30 broadly resembles a U-shaped channel having a rectangular, horizontal base portion 31 and two side portions 32 and 33 that extend upwardly from and form substantially equal but opposite angles α with opposing ends 31a and 31b of the base portion 31. The upper extremities of the side portions 32 and 33 of the riser member 30 are provided with bracket-like, horizontal extensions 34 that have a plurality of bores 35 capable of receiving fasteners such as bolts or screws (not shown) for fastening a vehicle seat to the riser member 30. In FIGS. 1 and 4, the extensions 34 are shown to be directed toward the interior of the riser member 30; however, the extensions 34 may be oppositely directed away from the interior of the riser member 30 if dimensions and possibly other physical characteristics of the seat so require. The angles α between the side portions 32 and 33 and the base portion 31 may also be varied in accordance with the size and other attributes of the seat to be attached.

On the underside 31c of the base portion 31, four hub-like projections 36 are provided. As shown in FIGS. 1-3, the

projections **36** are arranged so that they will be received by the detents **25** provided in the base plate **20**. As more clearly shown in FIG. **5**, each of the projections **36** has a first cylindrical shaft portion **36a** and a second increased diameter cylindrical shaft portion **36d** that is provided at one of its ends with an enlarged, disc-like head portion **36b**. The other end of each of the projections **36** is provided extends upwardly first through a hole in the base portion **31** of the riser member **30** and then through a back up washer **70** that cooperate with a force produced by the cammed locking memo to firmly urge the second cylindrical shaft portion **36d** against the underside **31c** of the base portion **31**. Dimensionally, the first cylindrical shaft portion **36a** has a diameter D_s' that is smaller than the diameter D_s'' of the second cylindrical shaft portion **36d**. The diameter D_s'' of the second cylindrical shaft portion **36d** is slightly smaller than the width of the narrowed throat area **25b** of the detents **25** in the base plate **20**. Shaft portion **36a** has length L_s' and shaft portion **36d** has a length L_s'' that permit the surface **36c** of the disc-like head portion **36b** to be situated at a distance from the underside **31c** of the base portion **31**, which is below the lower surface **29** of base plate **20** that is proximate to and thus defines the narrowed throat area **25b**. The length L_s'' is at least equivalent to the thickness of base plate **20**. The diameter D_h of the disc-like head **36b** exceeds the width of the throat area **25b**. The foregoing dimensional parameters permit the first and second cylindrical shaft portions **36a** and **36d** of each of the hub-like projections **36** to be freely moved laterally into and out of the narrowed throat area **25b** and vertically up and down with respect to the lower surface **29** of the base plate **20** when the cammed locking means **40** is in an unlocked state. The projections **36** may be fabricated from cylindrical pieces of metal stock by turning the stock on a lathe to provide the first and second cylindrical shaft portions **36a** and **36d** and the disc-like head portion **36b**.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention shown in FIG. **1**, the riser member **30** also includes an elongated slot **37** and a T-shaped opening **38** in the horizontal base portion **31**. The slot **37** and the opening **38** in the base portion **31** are dimensionally similar to the slot **26** and the opening **27** in the base plate **20** and are located so that when the hub-like projections **36** are received by the narrowed throat areas **25b** of the detents **25** the slots **26** and **37** and the openings **27** and **38** are vertically aligned.

As shown in FIG. **6**, the cammed locking means **40** essentially includes: a box-shaped outer frame **41**; a pair of thin, plate-like compression cams **42** and **43**; an extending tab **44** that generally resembles compression cams **42** and **43** but has a dimensionally longer longitudinal axis; a T-shaped locking tab **45**; a spring biasing means **46** and a shaft **47**. The outer frame **41** is created by bending an elongated strip of sheet metal to form a first vertical end portion **41a**, a horizontal bottom portion **41b**, a second vertical end portion **41c**, and a horizontal top portion **41d**. As may be seen by reference to FIG. **6**, top portion **41d** extends toward and makes contact with end portion **41a**. End portion **41a** and top portion **41d** are fasted together by a weld, a tongue and groove tab or by any other suitable means. Additionally, the outer surface **41b'** of the bottom portion **41b** faces toward the base portion **31** of the riser member **30**, causing the frame **41** to be open on two opposing vertical ends. The end portions **41a** and **41c** are each provided with vertically elongated openings **48** having semi-circular end portions. Horizontal bottom portion **41b** is provided with a rectangular slot **49**, and horizontal top portion **41d** is provided with a downwardly extending depression **50** having a bore **51** in the

central region thereof. The slot **49** and the depression **50** are positioned in their respective members **41b** and **41d** such that they are in vertical alignment with one another.

The compression cams **42** and **43** as well as the extending tab **44** are also fabricated from a thin metallic material and are generally rectangular in shape except for the rounded-off corner portions **42a**, **42b**, **43a**, **43b**, **44a** and **44b** that are provided between edges **42c**, **43c** and **44c**. Like the first and second vertical end portions **41a** and **41c** of frame **41**, the compression cams **42** and **43** and the extending tab **44** are also provided with circular openings **52**. The T-shaped locking tab **45** is provided with an aperture **53** which is situated in the base portion **45a** of the tab **45**. (It should be noted that while the locking tab **45** of the present invention is shown to be T-shaped, alternative shapes may be suitable as long as the shape meets the objective of applying pressure from the bottom of base plate **20**. Some other possible shapes include an "L" shaped tab or a "J" shaped tab.)

The shaft **47** may be considered to have three basic portions: a first straight portion **47a**, a second straight portion **47b** and a curved portion **47c** that is intermediate portions **47a** and **47b**. It will be observed that dimensionally the first straight portion **47a** is considerably longer than the second straight portion **47b** and that the second straight portion **47b** may thus function as a handle to cause rotation of the first straight portion **47a** about its longitudinal axis.

In its assembled state, the previously described elements of the cammed locking means **40** will appear generally as shown in FIGS. **7**, **8** and **9**. The compression cam **43** is positioned vertically adjacent to the first vertical end **41a** of the outer frame **41** with the rounded corner portions **43a** and **43b** generally oriented downward toward the horizontal bottom portion **41b** and with its opening **52** essentially aligned with the elongated opening **48** in vertical end **41a**. The base portion **45a** of T-shaped locking tab **45** is engaged in rectangular slot **49** of horizontal bottom portion **41b** with the aperture **53** in general alignment with the elongated openings **48** in the first and second end portions **41a** and **41c**. The extending tab **44** is situated vertically adjacent to the second vertical end portion **41c** of the outer frame **41** with the rounded corner portions **44a** and **44b** generally oriented downward toward the horizontal bottom portion **41b** and with its opening **52** essentially aligned with the elongated opening **48** in vertical end **41c**. The compression cam **42** is positioned vertically adjacent to the side of the extension tab **44** that lies directly opposite to that which is next to the second vertical end portion **41c**. As may be clearly seen in FIG. **8**, compression cam **42** and extension tab **44** are arranged such that their top edges lie in the same horizontal plane opening **52** of cam **42** is aligned with opening **52** of the tab **44**. As in the case of the extending tab **44** and the compression cam **43**, the rounded corner portions **43a** and **43b** of compression cam **42** are also downwardly directed toward the bottom portion **41b** of the outer frame **41**. Compression cam **42** and extension tab **44** are permanently affixed to each other and maintained in the above described arrangement by one or more welds or by any other means which are known in the art.

With the compression cam **42**, the T-shaped locking tab **45**, the extending tab **44** and the compression cam **43**, positioned relative to the box-shaped outer frame **41** as indicated above, the first straight portion **47a** of the shaft **47** is received first by the elongated slots **52** and **48** in the compression cam **43** and the first end portion **41a** of the outer frame **41**, next by the aperture **53** in the T-shaped locking tab **45**, then by the slot **48** in the second end portion **41c** of the frame **41**, and finally by the opening **54** resulting

from the assembly of the extending tab **44** and the compression cam **42**. After passing through the opening **54**, the end of the first straight portion **47a** is extended slightly beyond the outer surface of the compression cam **42** where the end of the first straight portion **47a** and the compression cam are firmly joined together by a weld or other any other suitable means known in the art. First straight portion **47a** is also similarly joined to the compression cam **43**; The first straight portion **47a** and the T-shaped locking tab **45** are not rigidly fastened to each other, thus allowing straight portion **47a** to rotate freely within the aperture **53** provided in locking tab **45**. Spring biasing means **46**, which in the preferred embodiment is shown to be a coil spring, is situated within the box-shaped outer frame **41** so that one of its ends is seated about the peripheral edge of the depression **50** provided in the central region of horizontal top portion **41d** and so that the other of its ends receives the end of the base portion **45a** of the T-shaped locking tab **45** that extends above the first straight portion **47a**. It will also be observed that spring **46**, being so arranged, will also make contact with the first straight portion **47a** at two points on its periphery, which are on opposite sides of locking tab **45**. In making such contact, spring **46** will tend to urge straight portion **47a** of shaft **47** as well as locking tab **45** in toward the horizontal bottom portion **41b** of outer frame **41** when spring **46** is free to expand. The spring **46** will preferably have a spring constant, k , that ranges in value from $k=0.1$ to approximately $k=15$. It will be noted that the higher the k value for the spring **46**, the greater the compressive force there will be between riser member **30** and base plate **20**, and thus the better cammed locking means will be able to prevent rattle or any vertical or sliding movement between riser member **30** and base plate **20**.

As shown in FIGS. **3** and **10**, cammed locking means **40** is placed upon the upper surface of horizontal base portion **31** of riser member **30** and oriented so that: a segment of first straight portion **47a** of shaft **47** extends through a T-shaped opening **39** provided in the side portion **33** of riser member **30**; the lateral portion **45b** of the locking tab **45** extends through the narrow stem portion of the T-shaped opening **38** in the horizontal base portion **31**; and the extending tab **44** is aligned with the elongated slot **37**. Such placement of the cammed locking means **40** also causes the curved portion **47c** and the handle portion **47b** of the shaft **47** to project beyond the side portion **33** of the riser member **30**. The cammed locking means **40** is kept firmly in the above described orientation by weld material that is deposited either continuously or at intervals along the opposing exposed edges of the bottom portion **41b** of the outer frame **41** where they adjoin the horizontal base portion **31**.

As shown in FIG. **10**, the components of the cammed locking means **40** which are located to the interior of the riser member **30** may be enclosed within a housing **60** that extends upwardly from the horizontal base portion **31**, towards the bracket-like extensions **34** and laterally between the side portions **32** and **33** of the riser member **30**. The housing **60** acts to limit any particles such as dust, dirt or fluids from contacting the cammed locking means **40**. The housing **60** when viewed from one of its ends (FIG. **10a**) resembles an inverted, truncated "V" having a horizontal upper portion **62** and two angled side portions **64** and **66** extending therefrom. The housing **60** is formed from a single piece of sheet metal and its ends are provided with an angled contour that conforms to the angle of inclination α of the side portions **32** and **33**. The housing **60** is secured at its edges to the riser member **30** by welding material applied by conventional welding techniques. Any other conventional means of attachment may also be employed.

Installation and removal of a vehicle seat which has already been attached to the bracket-like, horizontal projections **34** of the riser member **30** may be accomplished by simply fastening and unfastening the riser member **30** to the base plate **20**. To fasten the riser member **30** to the base plate **20**, the following steps will be taken. Each of the four hub-like projections **36** on the underside **31c** of the horizontal base portion **31** of the riser member **30** is aligned with and inserted into a corresponding downwardly recessed enlarged area **25a** of one of the four detents **25** provided in the base plate **20**. Simultaneously, the lateral or head portion **45b** and the lower end of base portion **45a** of the T-shaped locking tab **45** are inserted into the cross member portion **27a** of the T-shaped opening **27** in the base plate **20**. The hub-like projections **36** are then moved laterally toward and into the narrowed throat area **25b** of each of the detents **25** until the second cylindrical shaft portion **36d** of each of the projections **36** makes firm contact with the semicircular edge of each of narrowed throat areas **25b**. As such movement is occurring, the head portion **45b** and the base portion **45a** of the T-shaped locking tab **45** are translated laterally toward the narrow base member **27b** of the T-shaped opening **27** in the base plate **20** so that the head portion **45b** of the locking tab **45** is positioned below the edges of the narrow base member **27b** of the T-shaped opening **27** and the base portion **45a** of the locking tab **45** traverses the base plate **20** within the narrow base member **27b** of the T-shaped opening **27**. After such movement of the hub-like projections **36** and the T-shaped locking tab **45** has been accomplished, the handle portion **47b** of the shaft **47** of the cammed locking means **40** is turned, preferably through an angle of 90 degrees, to cause compression cams **42** and **43** to rotate toward and make contact with the upper surface **31d** of the horizontal base portion **31** of the riser member **30** (FIG. **11(a)**). As the compression cams **42** and **43** are so rotated, the straight portion **47a** of the shaft **47**, which is free to move within the elongated openings **48** in first vertical end portion **41a** and second vertical end portion **41c** of outer frame **41**, is forced move upwardly toward the horizontal top portion **41d** of frame **41**. Such upward movement of the straight portion **47a** causes the spring **46** to become compressed and the T-shaped locking tab **45** to be upwardly translated. The compression cams **42** and **43** continue to be rotated until surfaces **45e** and **45f** formed by projections **45c** and **45d** of the head portion **45b** of locking tab **45** make contact with the underside of base plate **20** at the edges of T-shaped opening **27**.

At the same time that the head **45b** of the T-shaped locking tab **45** is being upwardly translated, the end of the extending tab **44** having the rounded-off corner portions **44a** and **44b** rotates downwardly first into elongated slot **37** in the horizontal base portion **31** of the riser member **30** and then into the elongated slot **26** in the base plate **20**. The cross-shaped depression **28** in the base plate **20** is provided so that the T-shaped opening **27** and the elongated slot **26** are dimensionally separated from the bottom surface **31c** of the riser member **30** at such a distance as will not only allow the extending tab **44** to be engaged in the slot **26**, but also result in the surfaces **45e** and **45f** of the head **45b** to make firm pressing contact with the underside of base plate **20**. With the extending tab **44** engaged in the slot **26** and the head portion **45b** firmly pressed against underside of the base plate **20** and thereby securely drawing the riser member **30** and the base plate **20** together, the hub-like projections are maintained in the narrow throat areas or notches **25b** of the detents **25** and vertical as well as sliding motion between the riser member **30** and the base plate **20** are prevented and the vehicle seat is held firmly in place.

For removal of the vehicle seat, the riser member **30** need only be separated from the base plate **20**. Separation may be accomplished easily and quickly by rotating the handle **47b** in a direction opposite to that required to secure the riser **30** and the base plate **20** (FIG. **11(b)**). Such opposite rotation of handle **47b** causes the head **45b** to translate downwardly away from surface **31c** and the extending tab **44** to rotate upwardly and out of the slot **26**. With the head **45b** and tab **44** so disengaged, riser member **30** may be translated laterally so as to disengage projections **36** from the detents **25** and the riser member **30** with its attached vehicle seat may be lifted upwardly away from base plate **20**. In a released configuration the longitudinal axes of the cams **42,43** and **44** will essentially be in a parallel orientation with the horizontal base portion **31b** of riser member **30**.

The dimensions of the quick release seat mechanism **10** and its respective parts will vary according the size of the vehicle, seat, or available room. The release mechanism **10** should be made of sturdy materials which can endure high levels of stress which will be caused by weight of the person(s) sitting or other objects having weight on the chair. The preferred embodiment is fabricated from steel. Other alternative materials may be used as long as they meet the desired objective of enduring high stress-strain. The preferred embodiment may also be coated with paint material that would resist rusting.

Although a preferred embodiment of the invention has been described above and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, it will be understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiment disclosed, but is capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications and substitutions of parts and elements without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A quick release mechanism for a seat of a vehicle, comprising:
 - a base plate adapted to rigidly attach to the floor of the vehicle, said base plate having an upper and a lower surface and first and second locking apertures;
 - a riser member which releaseably attaches at a bottom surface of said riser member to said base plate and is adapted to be secured to a vehicle seat;
 - a means for locking said riser to said base plate, said locking means comprising a locking tab extending through said first locking aperture in said base plate, and a rotating cam assembly for selectively biasing said locking tab upward against said base plate lower surface; and,
 - an extending tab which engages said second locking aperture as cam assembly applies bias to said locking tab.
2. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein said locking means further comprises a rotatable shaft member affixed to said rotating cam assembly.
3. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 2, wherein said locking means further comprises a frame member, said frame member having apertures for receiving said rotatable shaft member and an aperture for receiving said locking tab.
4. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 3, wherein said locking means further comprises a spring biasing means for biasing said locking tab downwardly and away from said base plate lower surface.
5. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 3, wherein,
 - said rotating cam assembly is adjacent said frame member.

6. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 3, wherein,
 - said extending tab is affixed to said rotatable shaft member adjacent said frame member.
7. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 3, wherein said frame member further comprises a means for retaining said spring biasing means.
8. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein said rotating cam assembly is comprised of at least one camming member affixed to, and rotatable by a shaft member.
9. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein said riser member comprises:
 - a horizontal base portion having an upper surface and a lower surface; and,
 - at least two side walls, said at least two side walls extending upwardly from opposing edges of said horizontal base portion, and having a bracket-like horizontal extension, said bracket-like horizontal extension having a plurality of bores for receiving fasteners for securing a vehicle seat to said riser member.
10. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 9, wherein one of said side walls further comprises an opening.
11. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein said base plate further comprises a plurality of depressions, each of said depressions having a bore for receiving a fastener for securing said base plate to a vehicle floor.
12. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 1, further comprising a cooperating two part alignment means comprised of a plurality of projections and a plurality of corresponding detents, wherein said first part of said two part alignment means is located in a spaced apart relationship on said base plate and said second part of said alignment means is located in a corresponding relationship on said riser member.
13. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 12, wherein each of said detents has a downwardly recessed enlarged region and a narrowing throat region, said narrowing throat region being in communication with said recessed enlarged region.
14. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein said base plate further comprises a centrally positioned, downwardly extending depression, within which said first and second locking apertures are formed.
15. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 1, wherein said riser member further comprises a housing for said locking means.
16. A quick release mechanism for a seat of a vehicle, comprising:
 - a base plate rigidly attachable to the floor of the vehicle, said base plate having an upper and a lower surface;
 - a riser member which releaseably attaches at a bottom surface of said riser member to said base plate and is secured at its upper extremities to a vehicle seat;
 - a cooperating two part alignment means comprised of a plurality of projections and a plurality of corresponding detents, wherein said first part of said two part alignment means is located in a spaced apart relationship on said base plate and said second part of said alignment means is located in a corresponding relationship on said riser member;
 - means for locking said riser to said base plate; and,
 - an extending tab which engages said locking aperture as cam assembly applies bias to said locking tab.
17. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 16, wherein said base plate comprises a second locking aperture; and,

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said locking means comprises a locking tab which extends through said second locking aperture in said base plate, and a rotating cam assembly for selectively biasing said locking tab upward against said base plate lower surface.

18. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 17, wherein said locking means further comprises a rotatable shaft member affixed to said rotating cam assembly.

19. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 18, wherein said rotating cam assembly comprises at least one camming member affixed to, and rotatable by said shaft member.

20. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 18, wherein said locking means further comprises a frame member, said frame member having apertures for receiving said rotatable shaft member.

21. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 17, wherein said locking means further comprises spring biasing means for biasing said locking tab downwardly and away from said base plate lower surface.

22. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 17, wherein said base plate further comprises a centrally positioned, downwardly extending depression, within which said locking apertures are formed.

23. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 16, wherein said riser member further comprises:

a horizontal base portion having an upper surface and a lower surface;

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at least two side walls, said at least two side walls extending upwardly from opposing edges of said horizontal base portion, and having a bracket-like horizontal extension, said bracket-like horizontal extension having a plurality of bores for receiving fasteners for securing a vehicle seat to said riser member.

24. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 23, wherein one said side walls further comprises an opening.

25. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 16, wherein said base plate further comprises a centrally positioned, downwardly extending depression, within which said locking aperture is formed.

26. A quick release mechanism as recited in claim 16, wherein said frame member further comprises a means for retaining said spring biasing means.

27. A method of releaseably attaching a vehicle seat to a vehicle, comprising:

rigidly attaching a base plate to the floor of the vehicle, said base plate having an upper and lower surface and a first and second locking aperture;

securing a riser member to said base plate by inserting a locking tab into said first locking aperture; and,

locking said riser member to said base plate by rotating a cam assembly, biasing said locking tab against said lower surface of said base plate and engaging an extending tab with said second locking aperture.

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